

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6-16, 46, 49-59, 61, 64-88 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 46, 61, and 73 being the independent claims and with claims 50-54 and 60 having been cancelled without prejudice for having been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 stands currently amended to correct the typographical error noted in the Examiner's objection. The remainder of the claims are as previously submitted. Claims 1, 6-16, 46, 49, 55-59, 61, 64-88 stand rejected, with independent claims 1, 46, 61, and 73 being rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 1,010,164 to Pittsburg Plate Glass Co. ("GB'164"). Claims 1-61 are also objected to for informalities, and claim 74 is rejected under § 112, ¶1, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Based on the above amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and objections.

First, the objection is overcome as the duplicate "for" in claim 1 has now been deleted

Second, the written description rejection should be withdrawn as the limitation "the temperature of the salt bath is at least about 25°C above the preheating temperature" is disclosed at pages 10, 12 and 18 of the specification. Page 10, the first paragraph, page 12, paragraph [1023], and page 18, paragraph [1047] all disclose this limitation.

Lastly, the art rejection under GB'164 should be withdrawn for the reasons respectfully discussed below. The claims are not anticipated by GB'164 at least because the reference does not disclose or suggest each and every element of the independent claims 1, 46, 61, and 73. Further, the remaining claims depend from these independent claims and have been rejected at least in part by the same grounds of rejection.

Claims 1, 46, and 61 recite "about ten seconds or less." As admitted by the office action, GB'164 discloses at best 15 seconds. Therefore, at least for this reason, prima facie, this reference does not anticipate claims 1, 46, and 61. See MPEP 2131.04(III) which specifically states that if a range does not overlap or touch the claimed range, it cannot anticipate the claimed range.

Further, as disclosed in the response filed on April 11, 2007, GB'164 does not even suggest this time range. Given the disclosure of the GB'164 reference, it is evident that the shortest time period contemplated by this reference is about 50% more than the maximum dipping time of 10 seconds in the present invention. As such, GB'164 teaches away from the claimed range.

GB'164 does not anticipate claims 73 either. This claim recites "dipping the formed glass article in a molten salt bath having a temperature more than said preheating temperature." Examiner quotes from GB'164 stating, " 'it is generally preferable to preheat the surfaces of the glass sheets to be treated to a temperature approximately that at which the molten potassium salt bath is maintained prior to contacting the glass sheets with the treating bath.' " Page 4 of the office action. Therefore, GB'164 teaches preheating the glass to the temperature of the salt bath - not more than the salt bath. As every limitation of the claim is not disclosed by the reference, the reference cannot anticipate the claims.

Furthermore, GB'164 does not render obvious claim 73. The reference clearly states that the glass is preheated to 1050° and then dipped in a bath of 1050°. As such, not only does this reference lack this claim limitation, it teaches away from it. Analyzing the previous quote from GB'164, regarding heating the glass generally to the temperature of the bath, in light of the specific example where the glass is heated to no more than the temperature of the bath, it becomes apparent that this reference in no way teaches or suggests claim 73, for at least the reason discussed above.

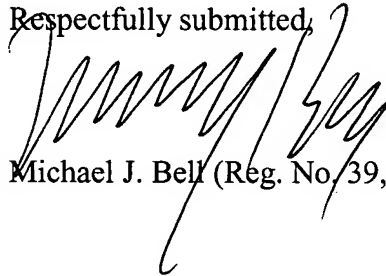
In view of these traversals and in view of the correction of the typographical errors in the claims, Applicants' respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objections and rejections and submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing remarks demonstrate that entry of these amendments places the present application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, better form for appeal. All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable entry and consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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